

## Truthfulness

Truthfulness is, in many ways, the cornerstone of a close-knit and highly functioning community. It also serves as the indicator of a strong moral compass and one's trustworthiness. In human relationships, truthfulness is associated with dependability. It enables the members of a community to rely upon one another without hesitation or uncertainty. It is the primary factor in the determination of the content of one's character. The truthfulness of work, or rather, honest work, teaches one the value of working to one's full capacity, as well as the benefits it can reap. It promotes a strong work ethic that will reverberate frequently throughout the course of one's life. It requires courage to be truthful about one's identity. A certain unyielding vulnerability and trusting relationships with other community members, whether they are peers, friends, family, or strangers, are essential to the sustenance of a society. Furthermore, honesty with oneself is perhaps the most revolutionary form of truthfulness. Only through such truthfulness can we acknowledge and compensate for our flaws and shortcomings. Human beings are by no means infallible creatures. In fact, truthfulness can be found in our tendency to make mistakes. But the most valuable truthfulness is found in the manner in which we recover from our mistakes. The honesty with which we accept our faults is, in my opinion, the most beautiful of human characteristics. It takes a certain grace to accept the ways in which we are not whole; the ways in which we are, quite ironically, human. The recognition of our weaknesses enables us to accept and adapt to the shortcomings of others. This ability provides us with the tools necessary to be empathetic and compassionate. Because we have this capability, we have the capacity to form networks of mutually advantageous relationships. Truthfulness is not always the path of least resistance. Quite frequently, telling the truth or preserving one's values is the most difficult option. Yet remaining honest or loyal to one's ideals in the face of adversity is the most rewarding and honorable choice one can make. One's truthfulness is typically congruous with the amount of respect one receives. People in positions of veneration are the byproduct of honest work and remaining true to personal beliefs. Our truths are the very things that identify us as unique. They separate us from the majority, and force us to pursue our interests; to perpetuate our convictions. Truthfulness is the most valuable human characteristic one can possess.